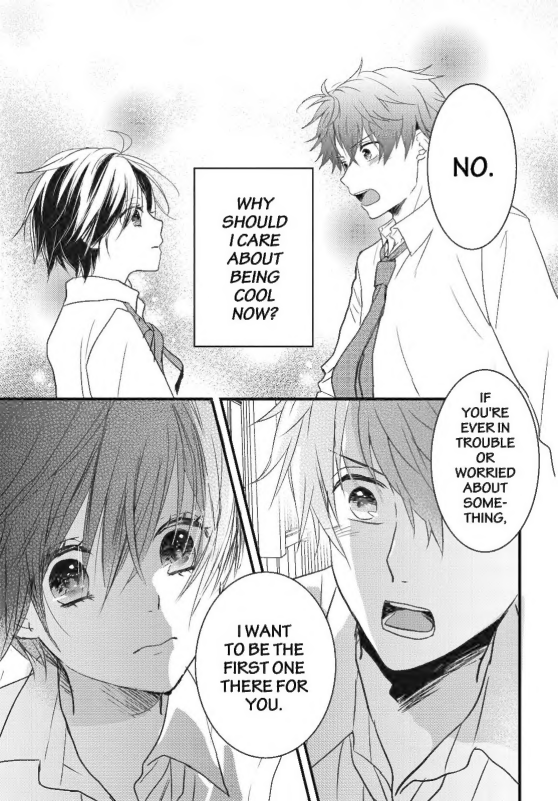
WHY DON'T WE START DATING?

YOU MEAN...

...LIKE A PLATONIC "FRIEND DATE" TO THE LIBRARY?
!!?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS ACTUALLY RIGHT.

IF I SAY, "YEAH, THAT WAS CONFUS-ING!"
UM...
THEN THINGS WILL GO BACK TO NORMAL.
SWEAT
SWEAT
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
BUT MAYBE THIS IS PERFECT.
SWEAT
UH...
SWEAT
I—
AND A CONFESSION CAN ONLY BE SO UNCOOL.
I...
I CAN TRY AGAIN ANOTHER DAY.


NO.
WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT BEING COOL NOW?
IF YOU'RE EVER IN TROUBLE OR WORRIED ABOUT SOME-THING,
I WANT TO BE THE FIRST ONE THERE FOR YOU.

WHY DID I HAVE TO MENTION COCK-ROACHES?
GULP
N...
CO...
OH!
AND BY TROUBLE, I DON'T JUST MEAN COCK-ROACHES!
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU NOT JUST WHEN YOU'RE UPSET, BUT ALSO WHEN YOU'RE HAPPY.
AND...
SORRY, I KNOW THIS IS SUDDEN.
I'LL WAIT WHILE YOU TAKE YOUR TIME DECIDING ON AN ANSWER.
OKAY.

WHAT?!
SHE ANSWERED SO EASILY?!
SHE'S MAKING A WEIRDLY GALLANT EXPRESSION.
UH, ARE YOU SURE YOU UNDERSTAND?
BY DATING, I MEAN THAT.
THE KIND THAT INVOLVES KISSING AND SEX.
IS THERE NO END TO MY STUPIDITY?

I...
I CAN'T RIGHT AWAY.
DOES THAT MEAN
YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT AS LONG AS IT'S NOT RIGHT AWAY?

BLUSH
...
JUST
FORGET IT!
HEY!
DASH!

ALL I DID WAS HAPPEN TO WALK BY! I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAD TO BE YOUR CUSTODIAN.
BUT YOU'RE SO NICE FOR ESCORTING ME ANYWAY!
SENPAI, WAIT!
DON'T CHASE ME!
HOW COULD I NOT CHASE YOU?
I'LL HATE YOU IF YOU DO!
WHAT?!
DOES
DOES THAT MEAN...

YOU LIKE ME RIGHT NOW?!
AAAAAAH
ENOUGH!
SENPA...
UGH.
I CAN'T GO PAST HERE.
IT'S THE GIRLS' AREA.

SHE COULDN'T TAKE THE FIRST STEP,
SO I...

I CAUGHT YOU.
LET... LET GO.
STOP, STOP.
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
OW!
OW! CALM DOWN!
IF SENPAI HAD A BOOK ON HER, SHE'D BE HITTING ME WITH THE SPINE...
WHY?
THIS IS THE GIRLS' AREA.
YOU CAN'T BE HERE.
WHIMPER
LET GO...
I'M SORRY.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO APOLOGIZE, JUST LET GO.

WHIMPER
LIKE HELL I WILL!
I'LL TAKE A BAMBOO SWORD TO THE BUTT OR ANYTHING ELSE LATER.
UGH...
NOT LATER, NOW!
WHIMPER
WITH A NAIL BAT...
THAT WOULD BREAK MY BUTT INTO TEN PIECES!
I CAN'T STAND THIS.
WHAT IS THIS...
SORRY IT HAD TO BE LIKE THIS.
I TRIED REALLY HARD SO THIS WOULDN'T HAPPEN! IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR SAYING THOSE WEIRD THINGS.
THAT'S WHY SHE LOOKED SO GALLANT.

IT'S PATHETIC.
THIS IS PRETTY AWFUL.
UNCOOL.
BUT I LIKE YOU.
I LOVE YOU, SENPAI.
THAT'S WHO I AM.
SO...

WILL YOU GO OUT WITH ME?
CLENCH
NOD
NOD
Y...
YES.
PLEASE.
WHA?
WHOA!
?!

I'M
SO
FREAK-
ING
HAPPY!
SLUMP
SIIIGH...
SORRY. I WAS JUST SO EXCITED.
ARE YOU DIS-GUSTED WITH ME NOW?
...

I'M...
...REALLY FREAKING HAPPY,
TOO.

ぱん
CLAP

I WAS ONLY WATCHING AND I'M STILL BLUSHING!
BE PATIENT!
THAT WAS AMAZING TO WATCH!
SORRY TO INTERRUPT JUST AS THINGS ARE GETTING EXCITING
BUT YOU SHOULD PROBABLY STOP SOON
YOU'RE GOING TO KILL MAYUMI-SAN.

MAYUMI-SAN, WHY?!
AAAHH
AAAUGH!
WHY? BECAUSE YOU'RE STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF MAYUMI-CHAN'S ROOM.
WHEEZE WHEEZE
I CAN'T BE-- I'VE NO DESIRE, I SWEAR TO MAYUMI-SAN'S MOM! FOR YOUR SUSPICION TO GET REVENGE FOR EVERYTHING SHE'S DONE UNTIL NOW
IT WASN'T ON PUR-POSE!
WOW, GREAT-GRANDMA HAVEN'T SEE YOU IN A WHILE
OH, NO! SHE'S HAVING A NEAR-DEATH EXPERI-ENCE!
MAYUMI-SAN, HANG IN THERE!
BUT MAYUMI-SAN IS SO NICE
SHE PATIENTLY ENDURED IT EVEN THOUGH IT WAS KILL ING HER

I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A MISERABLE MAYUMI-SAN.
SHE'S STILL NOT ENTIRELY BACK YET.
I'M SORRY.
...I CAN'T STOP CRYING.
I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING.
BUT...
BUT SORRY.
I CAN'T HAVE ANYTHING EXPLICIT HAPPENING WHILE YOU'RE UNDER THE SAME ROOF.
I DIDN'T MIND WHILE YOUR FEELINGS WERE UNREQUITED.
SO YOUR RELATIONSHIP WILL HAVE TO BE IN NAME ONLY.
I'M GLAD THE TWO OF YOU GOT TOGETHER.
I'M GOING TO OTSUKIMI!
I'M RUNNING AWAY!
THEY WERE WATCHING AND LISTENING!
I CAN'T FACE THIS ANYMORE!

WHAT?!
YOU CAN START ACTUALLY DATING ONCE RIT-CHAN MOVES OUT.
YOU SAID I COULD DEVELOP YOUR UNPLEASANT VIRGIN BUTT WITH THIS NAIL BAT.
OH, GOOD.
LEARNING YOU CAN'T ACTUALLY DATE EACH OTHER SEEMS TO HAVE BROUGHT HER BACK
CHARMIE-SAN IS HERE, TOO.
I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU!
WHERE DOES "ACTUALLY DATING" START? WHAT ABOUT KISSING?!
OH
I REMEMBERED SOMETHING
AAAUGH!
YOU DID ENTER THE GIRLS' AREA.
WHAT?!
THEN I'LL USE A STUN GUN.
HUH
YOU'RE FINALLY TOGETHER?

THAT'S NOT MUCH OF A REACTION.
REALLY?
I MEAN, I KNEW YOU'D GET TOGETHER SOON.
I DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE RIGHT AWAY, THOUGH.
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
YOU KNEW?
WELL, AT THE CAFÉ.
WHY DON'T YOU WAIT?
BUT...
...
BUT WHAT?
YOU'D BETTER NOT SAY SOMETHING STUPID LIKE YOU'RE AWARE OF YOUR OWN FEELINGS, BUT YOU'RE NOT READY TO DATE HIM YET.
I WON'T.
OH?
SAYAKA-SAN SAID...

SHE SAID I'D MEET A LOT OF NEW PEOPLE, TOO.
OH...
. COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT.
ONCE I MOVE AWAY, WE'LL BECOME ESTRANGED
WELL, IT IS POSSI-BLE.
WELL, YEAH.
COLLEGE DOES SEEM LIKE IT WOULD BROADEN YOUR WORLD.
SO, WHAT?
ARE YOU THINKING YOU'LL MEET SOMEONE BETTER IN COLLEGE?
OF COURSE NOT.
.. USA-KUN WOULD MEET A LOT OF NEW PEOPLE
THAT I WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT.
ONCE I MOVED AWAY...
I HADN'T REALIZED THAT
OH!

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I DON'T WANT THAT TO
HAPPEN.
THAT'S WHY I CALLED YOU.
ARE YOU LISTENING?
AND IF
SOME OF THEM WERE GIRLS LIKE YOU AND SHIINA-SAN...
AND IF THEY GOT CLOSER TO HIM THAN ME...

ALL THE FORE-SHADOWING THAT HAD BEEN ESTAB-LISHED SUD-DENLY CAME TOGETHER.
SHE'S ANALYZING IT LIKE A NOVEL.
SINCE I REALIZED HOW I FEEL,
I'VE BEEN THINKING BACK ON EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED.
BUT YOU'LL BE FINE. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT USA-KUN HERE.
THAT JUST WASN'T WHAT I WAS EXPECTING.

I'VE LIKED HIM FOR A WHILE,
AND USA-KUN SEEMS TO CARE FOR ME DESPITE WHO I AM.
THERE'S JUST...
...NO ONE ELSE LIKE HIM.
SO... IF I JUST WAIT FOR HIM, SOMEONE ELSE MIGHT...
I DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN.
HAYASHI-SAN,
YOU SAID USA-KUN WAS LUCKY TO HAVE ENDED UP AT THE KAWAI COMPLEX.

BUT THE LUCKY ONE...
...IS ME.
EVEN SHIINA-SAN WAS EXASPER-ATED.
HOW ON EARTH DOES YOUR THOUGHT PRO-CESS WORK? I CAN'T UNDER-STAND IT.
100m/h
100km/h
GOAL
IT'S LIKE WHAT HAD BEEN A SUPER HIGH-LEVEL MAZE UP UNTIL THAT POINT...
...SUD-DENLY TURNED INTO A STRAIGHT LINE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SAID THAT AFTER REALIZING HOW YOU FELT.

UGH...
BUT WE'RE NOT REALLY DATING UNTIL AFTER I MOVE OUT OF THE KAWAI COMPLEX.
WHAT?!
WHAT IS THAT? IT SOUNDS HALF-ASSED!
BUT YOU MADE HIM YOUR BOYFRIEND RIGHT AFTER THAT. WAY TO GO, RITSU-SENPAI.
ONCE SHE MADE IT THAT FAR, THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT FOR ME TO SAY.
I DID TELL HER TO DO WHAT SHE WANTED, THOUGH.
WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING EXPLICIT WHILE LIVING TOGETHER.
OH... AND I DOUBT THOSE TWO WOULD EVER LET IT HAPPEN.
ALTHOUGH IT IS LIKE YOU TWO TO NEVER MAKE A REAL DECISION.
UM...
EVEN IF IT'S HALF-BAKED,
I... I'M STILL HIS GIRLFRIEND.

HE SEEMS TO ENJOY IT, SO I WOULDN'T TELL HIM TO STOP.
I'M NOT SAYING HE CAN'T BE FRIENDS WITH THEM.
I KIND OF DON'T LIKE IT WHEN
OTHER GIRLS HOLD HIS ARM OR TOUCH HIM.
DO...
DO YOU THINK IT'S OKAY FOR ME TO SAY THAT?
THIS IS TOO EXTREME!
JUST DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!
ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT'S THIS? I'M CRYING AGAIN...